

VOL 31, No 1

President's Message

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

The December Program and Meeting at the Art, a Hotel, and Denver's Civic Center was an historic event for RMGA. It was the first time that RMGA conducted a "hybrid meeting and program." There were members attending in person and members attending via ZOOM. Everyone was able to experience the lights and colors of the decorations at Civic Center and the camaraderie at the Hotel. Those attending via ZOOM didn't get to experience the aromas of the Christkindelmarkt shops nor frosty noses due to the low temperatures. Photos of the activity are included elsewhere in this newsletter and on the RMGA Facebook page. Thanks to all the photographers.

Getting together at meetings helps me to connect with my tour guide colleagues. Ours is a solitary job (one guide per group), and I enjoy being in the company of my colleagues. Thanks to Vice President and Program Chair Mark Blaising for arranging the event. I'm looking forward to some interesting programs in 2023.

Eileen and I recently participated in a Viking Cruise through Europe. We joined many tour-guide lead excursions along the way. After having had so many guided experiences in such a concentrated amount of time, I was able to draw some conclusions about what makes for a quality guided tour. Watch for a program in 2023 on the topic. Contact Vice President and Program Chair Mark Blaising, if you want to participate in the program.

Swapping books and resource materials at in-person monthly meetings is proving popular. The tub of materials will be available at future meetings. Bring books and pamphlets that you would like to share with other members. Leave one, take one. Talking about research and swapping materials is a great way to bond during any of our meetings.

RMGA members need to determine in what ways the organization is beneficial to them, then join to actualize that vision. Please email your ideas and thoughts about the future direction of the organization to rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com.

– Mike Pearl, President, RMGA

January 2023

A Member of



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	1
<u>From the Editor</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>In Memoriam</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Committee Updates</u>	<u>2-8</u>
<u>Organization Activities</u>	<u>8-9</u>
<u>December Program Recap</u>	<u>9-12</u>
<u>NFTGA News</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Board of Directors Meetings</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Members Meetings</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Purpose of RMGA</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Officers and Chairpersons</u>	<u>14</u>

FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submissions for the February 2023 *Guide Line* is **Sunday, January 29**. Future contributions should be emailed to *Guide Line* editor Eileen Pearl at rmgaeditor@rockymountaintourguides.com. If anyone has photos to share, please send them along with either a short description and/or names.

IN MEMORIAM

The Board of Directors has received word of the death of Bernie Jwaszewski (Bernie's Journeys) of Colorado Springs. Bernie's sister-in-law reports that Bernie was diagnosed with liver cancer a year ago. He succumbed to the disease in August. RMGA extends its condolences to Bernie's family.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Communications Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen, Communications Committee Chair

What's New on the Website?

- Added December Guide Line

Monthly Visitors to the RMGA Website

Data not available at the time this article was written

Profile Update

If you have changes to your Profile, send them to rmgawebsite@rockymountaintourguides.com.

E-mail distribution

- Distributed e-mails that were of general interest to the members including requests for tour guides/directors for 2023.

The distribution of e-mails continues to be done on a temporary basis. If anyone is interested in sending out the e-mail blasts, contact Mike Pearl at rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com. The contact list is current with the membership roster. If you are not receiving e-mails please contact Tom Jensen @ rmgacommunications@rockymountaintourguides.com.

Facebook

- Added information on December meeting
- Approved postings submitted by members
- Posted information on tourism topics

Be sure to post travel stuff on the RMGA Facebook account.

Be sure to join the RMGA Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RMGAssoc>. You'll find postings of upcoming events, industry happenings, and photos. All members are welcome send in their pictures or posting.

Membership Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl, Membership Committee Chair

The RMGA Board of Directors thanks you for your membership. The latest membership directory is posted on the Members Only page of the RMGA Website.

The time to renew your membership in RMGA is at hand. Early-bird renewal rates will apply for 2023. The deadline for the reduced early-bird renewal rates is January 15. After January 15, regular rates apply, Watch your email for more information.

RMGA welcomes new members! Do your part to improve and expand RMGA's knowledge base by increasing our membership roster. Invite tour guides to RMGA's next meeting in-person or on Zoom. Send their contact information to Membership Committee Chair [Mike Pearl](#) so that they can be included on the Zoom Meeting Invitation.

Liability Insurance

Submitted by Wendy Pickering, Treasurer

Liability insurance is available for 2023 through the NFTGA policy. Please send me your premium payment of \$99.00 as soon as you can after receiving my email with information and instructions.

Nominations Committee

No submission this month.

Program Committee

The RMGA Program for January 9, 2023 will be presented by Steve Kaverman. The program is titled, *The Colorado - A River in Peril*. We will look back at the Colorado River Compact of 1922, review the status of both major reservoirs and their dams, and consider the future of Colorado River water. The presentation will include a PowerPoint and the meeting will take place via Zoom. Watch your email for the link.



Lake Powell 1980

Public Relations Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen, Public Relations Committee Chair

RMGA is a member of Visit Colorado Springs. Here is an end-of-year letter we received from Ana Mendoza, Partner Relations Manager at Visit Colorado Springs:

*As 2023 nears, I wanted to reach out with some information regarding your business, **Rocky Mountain Guides Association**. I hope you will find it informative and useful. Holly, our Group Servicing Manager, gives recommendations to event planners for reunions, gatherings, conferences, and weddings. She also communicates with small groups looking for attractions, fun activities, restaurants, or meeting/off-site space in the Pikes Peak Region. These clients have reached out to Visit COS for recommendations but did not want to receive a proposal.*

*We are excited to share that Holly recommended **Rocky Mountain Guides Association** to 7 groups in 2022. These groups ranged in size from **40 to 1,000** people.*

If at any point you'd like to know how many times we've recommended your business so far, please feel free to reach out to me and I'll be happy to address your request.

We genuinely value your partnership and continued support, and we hope you have a wonderful holiday season with your loved ones.



Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference

The Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference is an annual three-day event for tourism professionals and industry leaders to learn and network. Participants assess current activities and find new approaches to market the state, locales, and businesses. Speakers from throughout the country will challenge and inspire attendees.

Save the Date: Gov Con 2023
September 27-September 29
Fort Collins, Colorado



History Colorado

History Colorado in their Weekly Digest of December 27th have identified stories from 2022 which are key in the history of Colorado.

As 2022 starts to fade into the past, we've been contemplating which stories from this year will stand the test of time and one day help explain this moment in Colorado's story.

Five Moments of Colorado History in the Making

April 4—The Reproductive Health Equity Act Signed

In response to the threat that the US Supreme Court would overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the Colorado legislature [signed the Reproductive Health Equity Act](#) on April 4. Many Coloradans marched to the streets to protest after the Court's ruling on June 24.

June 19—Colorado's First Juneteenth as an Official Holiday

Colorado, and Denver in particular, has long been home to some of the largest Juneteenth celebrations in the country. On May 2, Governor Jared Polis signed the bipartisan bill [making June 19 an official statewide holiday](#).

November 8—Women to Hold Majority Seats in Legislature

The November 8 election made some big local headlines. For the first time in state history, [women will hold the majority of seats in the Colorado legislature](#) when the Seventy-fourth General Assembly begins on January 9, 2023.

November 9—First Latina Member of Congress

In other November election firsts, voters in Colorado’s newly drawn 8th Congressional District [elected Dr. Yadira Caraveo, our first Latina representative, to Congress](#). Although Election Day was November 8, the tight race was not called until later on November 9.

November 19—The Shooting at Club Q

Coloradans across the state were devastated by the [hateful mass shooting at Club Q in Colorado Springs](#)—a violent act of terror against the LGBTQ+ community in a place that has long been a safe space for the LGBTQ+ community.

Four Historic Preservation Achievements

March 18—The Amache National Historic Site Act

President Joe Biden signed H.R.2497 into law, designating [Camp Amache](#), a location in southeastern Colorado that served as an internment camp during World War II, as a historic site within the National Park System.

May 4—Chicano Murals Declared Endangered

Colorado’s Chicano/a/x community murals were named one of America’s [eleven most endangered places](#), bringing recognition to more than 40 significant murals by artists around the state, from Denver to Greeley, Pueblo, and San Luis.

October 5—Expansion of Sand Creek Massacre Site

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland (Pueblo of Laguna), representatives from Tribal and state government, conservation groups, and the National Park Service gathered together at the site of the Sand Creek Massacre to announce [the expansion of the site managed by the NPS](#).

October 12—Designation of Camp Hale by President Biden

President Joe Biden came to Colorado for a ceremony [designating Camp Hale as a national monument](#), honoring the 10th Mountain Division and its pivotal role in breaking Nazi defenses in the Italian Alps during World War II.

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

Rocky Mountain Guides Association represents professional tour guides in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Region to tourism-related organizations. As vice president and president, Mark Blaising and I meet with other leaders of US tour guide associations and guilds through monthly Zoom meetings. We report to RMGA members the information from those meetings.

President Mike Pearl will represent RMGA at the San Antonio Conference of the National Federation of Tourist Guides Associations January 25-28, 2023. Contact Mike with concerns you would like him to address at the NFTGA delegates meeting on January 25.

Tom Jensen and the Public Relations Committee lead in keeping RMGA and us professional tour guides in the forefront of the minds of local tourism industry leaders. He is our liaison to VISIT Denver, the Colorado Tourism Organization, VISIT Colorado Springs, and Tour Colorado, among other such organizations. Do you know of a tourism organization with which RMGA should be affiliated? Contact Tom with information.

VISIT Denver has published the 2022-2023 Fall/Winter Official *Visitors Guide to Denver & Colorado*, a visitor's premier resource for what to do, where to stay, where to eat, and how to get around the Mile High City. Check out RMGA's listing on page 101. Business Member Sid Wilson (A Private Guide) is featured in a photo on page 6. Cheers, Sid! On page 7 the 10th *Must-Do* is "Take a Tour." Get ready for visitors calling on you to provide a local tour.

At the request of members, the Board of Directors will conduct a survey of the professional members regarding their tour activities for the 2022 season. The brief survey will seek information about the types and frequency of tours that members give and ranges of pay members receive for their services. The purpose of the survey is to describe the status of the profession in the Rocky Mountain region by statistical means. Respondents will remain anonymous, responses will be aggregated, and results will be published in the *Guide Line*. Send your ideas about topics and questions to RMGA President [Mike Pearl](#).

RMGA Facebook Page

Another way for members to communicate with each other is the RMGA Facebook page. Find it at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RMGAssoc>. It's a great place for members to post pictures and tidbits of information that we all can use.

RMGA Guide Line

The official way that RMGA as an organization communicates with members is by means of the newsletter, *Guide Line*, published September through May. Editor Eileen Pearl collects articles submitted by members for the benefit of professional tour guiding. In addition to RMGA members, the *Guide Line* is sent to the Colorado Tourism Organization (CTO), the National Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (NFTGA), and other tourism-promoting organizations. The newsletter is transmitted by Tom Jensen, in his temporary role as transmitter of the RMGA email Blasts. Send your articles to [Eileen Pearl](#).

RMGA Leadership Opportunities

Members are encouraged to volunteer to lead these committees:

- Certification (Must have the RMGA Colorado Certification)
- Email Distribution

Contact any Board member with your interest.

Are You Colo-Ready?

RMGA has become a Stewardship Partner with the Care for Colorado Coalition. Check out the RMGA logo alongside other Stewardship Partners at <https://www.colorado.com/care-colorado-coalition>. Watch for this logo on the RMGA website and the *Guide Line*:



Like many destinations in the West, Colorado is forecasting a warm, dry summer and many communities across the state have [fire restrictions](#) in place. Check out how our visitors to Colorado can be careful with fire and can check local restrictions before enjoying a campfire, fireworks or other activities that use an open flame on this video, produced by The Care for Colorado Coalition <https://www.colorado.com/videos/care-colorado-be-careful-fire>

The ideas expressed in the video can't be an exhaustive list. What ideas is the video missing? Send your thoughts to the *Guide Line* [Editor](#).

Colorado Concierge Training and Certification

[Colorado Concierge Training](#) is a free certification for frontline workers to become Colorado experts and grow their Colorado-style hospitality. The training is online at BeAColoradoConcierge.com. You can also download the app from [Google Play](#) or the [Apple App Store](#).

The training includes seven modules:

- Colorado Essentials
- The Care for Colorado Principles
- Colorado's Eight Travel Regions
- Colorado-Style Customer Service
- Colorado Traveler Safety
- Hunting & Fishing
- Inclusive Colorado Culture

Certified businesses, organizations, and individuals also receive the benefits outlined at <https://oedit.colorado.gov/colorado-concierge-training-and-certification>

Which RMGA members have attained Colorado Concierge Certification? What are your impressions of the program? Send your thoughts to the *Guide Line* [Editor](#).

DECEMBER PROGRAM RECAP

It was the season....For Holiday Lights!!!

On Monday, December 12 RMGA Members got together for a celebration of Denver's holiday light tradition. They met at the Art Hotel and then went as a group to enjoy the Lights. **Steve Kaverman, Adrian Swenson and Tom Jensen** shared the following photos:

From Steve Kaverman:



From Tom Jensen:

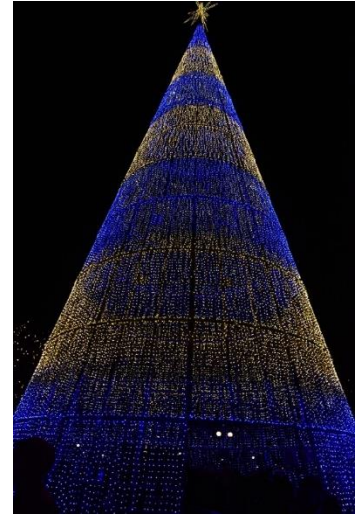


Adrian Swenson

From Adrian Swenson:



Ellen Casey, Carol Carder, Tom Jensen, Mark Blaising, Steve Kaverman



Mark Blaising and Mike Pearl



Steve Kaverman, Tom Jensen, Ellen Casey Carol Carder

NFTGA LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

RMGA is a member of the National Federation of Tourist Guides (NFTGA), a collective of local tourist guides associations and guilds across the US. From time to time, RMGA Members receive notices from NFTGA via our email Blast system.

The Professional Tour Guide Association of San Antonio is hosting NFTGA's biennial national conference. It will be held January 25-28, 2023, in San Antonio, Texas, at the Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio Riverwalk.

You may want to tour the Alamo on Friday afternoon while you are there, then on Friday or Saturday night walk over to San Fernando Cathedral to see The Saga [The Saga - San Antonio](https://www.visitsanantonio.com/san-antonio-the-saga)
<https://www.visitsanantonio.com/san-antonio-the-saga>.

For registration go to: www.nftgaregistration.com or go to the NFTGA webpage and click on the link.

To see resources for tour guides, go to NFTGA's [Guide Resources](#).

Find your next tour job at www.TourGuidingJobs.com!

Simply sign up for a free account and start looking through the job listings. We will be adding more jobs weekly as tour operators, destinations, attractions, and travel companies who send us their job opportunities looking for talented professionals like you!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Monday January 2, 2023 (6:00 pm)

Monday, February 6, 2023 (6:00 pm)

Monday, March 6, 2023 (6:00 pm)

(Meetings via ZOOM; email Communications Committee Chair [Tom Jensen](#) for an invitation)

All Members are welcome and invited to attend.

MEMBERS MEETINGS

The second Monday of January, February, March, April, May, October, November, December

Monday, January 9, 2023 (6:00 pm) Meeting via ZOOM or in person: watch for details; an invitation to attend is emailed to Members, who are encouraged to forward the invitation to prospective members.

Monday, February 13, 2023 (6:00 pm) Meeting via ZOOM or in person: watch for details; an invitation to attend is emailed to Members, who are encouraged to forward the invitation to prospective members.

Monday, March 13, 2023 (6:00 pm) Meeting via ZOOM or in person: watch for details; an invitation to attend is emailed to Members, who are encouraged to forward the invitation to prospective members.

PURPOSE of the ROCKY MOUNTAIN GUIDES ASSOCIATION

The nature of the business and activities of this Corporation is educational and the objects and purposes thereof to be transacted, promoted, or carried on are TO PROMOTE THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF COMPETENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM AMONG PERSONS WHO ACT AS TOUR GUIDES AND TOUR MANAGERS/ DIRECTORS, TO PROVIDE ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AGAINST WHICH ALL TOUR GUIDES AND TOUR MANAGERS/DIRECTORS ARE MEASURED, and, in pursuing said basic purposes,

1. To hold meetings and familiarization (“FAM”) trips for the improvement and continuing education of its members;
2. To provide opportunities for the exchange of experiences and opinions regarding tour guides and tour managers/directors and their profession;
3. To provide a forum for development and promotion of common professional interests and concerns of tour guides and tour managers/directors;
4. To cooperate with other related and non-related organizations in a common endeavor to promote the profession of tour guiding, tour management and tour directing and to promote the public awareness of said profession. – *Articles of Incorporation*, Rocky Mountain Guides Association

Officers		
President	Mike Pearl	303-868-0023
Vice President	J. Mark Blaising	303-830-8440
Secretary	Dawn Nelsen	303-898-6853
Treasurer	Wendy Pickering	217-621-1960
Director-at-Large	David White	720-217-8643

Committee Chairpersons		
Certification		
Communications	Tom Jensen	303-968-0515
Education	David White	303-868-0023
Hospitality	Lily Ewing	303-250-9679
Membership	Mike Pearl	303-979-7594
Newsletter Editor	Eileen Pearl	303-868-0021
Program	J. Mark Blaising	303-830-8440
Public Relations	Tom Jensen	303-968-0515
Nominations	Mike Pearl	303-868-0023